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REVIEWS.

Influence of Country Rock on Mineral Veins. By WALTER HARVEY WEED, United States Geological Survey, from the transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, Mexican meeting, 1901.

ABUNDANT evidence is brought forth and satisfactorily stated in this paper to show three things: that the structural characters of vein fissures are affected by the country rock; that the mineral contents of ore deposits formed by metasomatic replacement vary with the nature of the enclosing rock; that no invariable relation can be established between rock types and ore deposits. Variation in structure of the fissure naturally, though not invariably, follows a change in texture, cleavage, and hardness of the rock through which it passes. In rocks which are fissile or easily fractured, fissures often lose their definite character and ramify the rock through which they pass, so that the ores which they carry lose their economic significance. In passing from soft to hard rock mineral veins are apt to grow narrow, and are often deflected. Regardless of the origin of the ore, there seems to be a connection between the nature of the mineral deposit and the country rock, where the mineral deposit is of the nature of a replacement. No such connection appears in the filling of open fissures. On account of differences in chemical constitution of the ore-forming solutions, the chemical reactions which took place in the process of vein forming in a rock of a given kind in different districts, were necessarily different, resulting in a variety of ore deposits. Within a limited district, however, the nature of the ore forming solutions was often very constant, and there is a uniform variation in vein content, with variations in the wall rock.

These generalizations are supported by an interesting body of evidence drawn from the literature on ore deposits, both American and German, and from the writer's personal observations. The principles deduced are moderate, and are for this reason all the more acceptable. They are an advance on anything that has been attempted along this line, and have both theoretical and practical value.

FRANK A. WILDER.